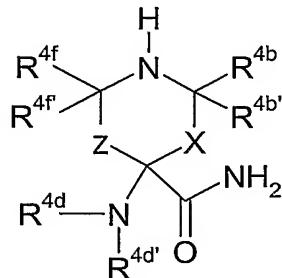


## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A process for preparing a compound of Formula (I)



5

(I)

wherein

R<sup>4b</sup> and R<sup>4b'</sup> are each independently hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

X is a bond, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>- or -C(R<sup>4c</sup>)(R<sup>4c'</sup>)-, where R<sup>4c</sup> and R<sup>4c'</sup> are each independently hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

10 R<sup>4d</sup> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cycloalkyl, or taken together with R<sup>4d'</sup> forms a 4- to 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing an additional heteroatom selected atom N, O, or S;

R<sup>4d'</sup> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, or taken together with R<sup>4d</sup> forms a 4- to 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing an additional heteroatom selected from N, O or S;

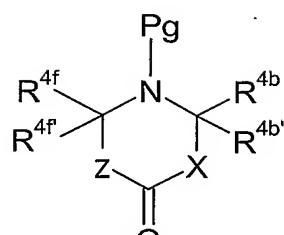
15 Z is a bond, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, or -C(R<sup>4e</sup>)(R<sup>4e'</sup>)-, where R<sup>4e</sup> and R<sup>4e'</sup> are each independently hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; and

R<sup>4f</sup> and R<sup>4f'</sup> are each independently hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

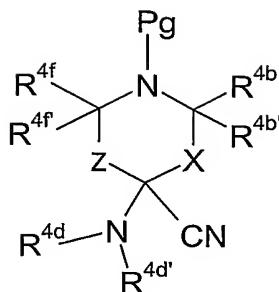
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

20 comprising the steps of

(1) reacting a compound having a formula R<sup>4d</sup>-NH-R<sup>4d'</sup> and a cyanide source with a compound of Formula (Ia) to form an intermediate of Formula (Ib)



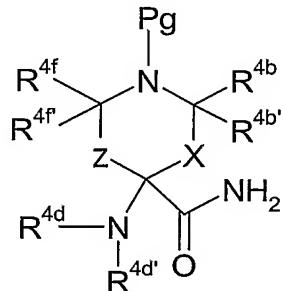
(Ia)



(Ib)

where Pg is a amino-protecting group and R<sup>4b</sup>, R<sup>4b'</sup>, X, Z, R<sup>4d</sup>, R<sup>4d'</sup>, R<sup>4f</sup> and R<sup>4f'</sup> are as defined above;

5 (2) hydrolyzing the nitrile group of the compound of Formula (Ib) with alkaline hydrogen peroxide in the presence of dimethylsulfoxide to form a compound of Formula (Ic)



(Ic)

10 where Pg, R<sup>4b</sup>, R<sup>4b'</sup>, X, Z, R<sup>4d</sup>, R<sup>4d'</sup>, R<sup>4f</sup> and R<sup>4f'</sup> are as defined above;

(3) removing the amino-protecting group to form the compound of Formula (I); and

(4) optionally forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound of Formula (I).

15

2. The process of Claim 1 wherein said compound of Formula (Ia) is converted to said compound of Formula (Ic) without isolating said compound of Formula (Ib).

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3. The process of Claim 2 wherein R<sup>4b</sup>, R<sup>4b'</sup>, R<sup>4f</sup>, R<sup>4f'</sup> are all hydrogens.

4. The process of Claim 3 wherein X is -CH<sub>2</sub>- or a bond; and Z is -CH<sub>2</sub>- or a bond.

5. The process of Claim 4 wherein R<sup>4d</sup> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl and R<sup>4d'</sup> is hydrogen.

6. The process of Claim 5 wherein X and Z are both a bond.

7. The process of Claim 5 or 6 wherein R<sup>4d</sup> is ethyl.